

strong ethical standards, improved friendship among college women, as well as to identify and develop solutions to issues that prevented young women from accessing higher education. With the motto of "Service to All Mankind," the sorority quickly took root in campuses and communities across the United States.

In the early years following its inception, the members of AKA engaged in endeavors that both assisted with access to and maximizing of the higher education experience for women of color. By the time AKA celebrated its Twenty-fifth Anniversary in 1933, the sorority had grown into a national organization with over 500 members in 104 chapters from across the United States. Among AKA's first achievements were the creation of a \$2000 scholarship to increase the ability of talented young women to financially afford college and an engagement with the NAACP to remove social barriers that prevented equal access to college education.

As the decades passed, AKA continued to expand both its membership and the scope of its community programs. In support of their sorority's mission to make higher education more accessible, the members of AKA took frontline roles in the Civil Rights movement and the President Johnson's War on Poverty. In addition to its Emerging Young Leader Initiatives, which provides middle school aged girls with leadership development and enhanced academic opportunities, AKA and its members began to tackle issues of community health, poverty and environmental justice. To support healthier communities, AKA started an asthma prevention program to help families identify and treat childhood asthma before it impacts the educational experience. In fulfillment of AKA's mission, its members undertook the creation of programs to empower their communities with information on the impact of environmental issues affecting them, setup health care forums targeted to women's issues and continue to partner with international leaders like UNESCO to end hunger and poverty across the globe.

Today, the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. is a thriving global organization with over 200,000 members worldwide across hundreds of chapters and has affected the future of thousands of young women. AKA's members have been part of key social movements that have seen our nation and the world move closer to equality on all fronts. I thank the members of the Metro Detroit and Ann Arbor Chapters of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. for their tireless dedication and service to Greater Detroit region and congratulate them on celebrating another great milestone in their history. I am proud to represent so many strong and talented Alpha Kappa Alpha women and I wish them well in their future endeavors as they continue making a remarkable impact on communities around the world.

IN RECOGNITION OF MONSIGNOR  
THOMAS BANICK FOR 50 YEARS  
OF COMMUNITY SERVICE AS A  
CATHOLIC PRIEST

**HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 28, 2014*

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Monsignor Thomas Banick, who

after 50 years of service to the Catholic Church and his community, is retiring. Monsignor Banick was ordained by Archbishop Martin J. O'Connor on December 18, 1963, in the Church of St. Ignatius in Rome. A day later, he celebrated his First Mass at the Altar of the Chair in St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican. In 1964, he was awarded the Degree of Licentiate in Sacred Theology by the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome. Shortly thereafter, Father Banick returned to the United States and celebrated a Mass of Thanksgiving at Holy Family Church.

Monsignor Banick was first assigned to Holy Ghost Church in Olyphant as an assistant pastor, where he took up residence after serving as an interim assistant pastor for the summer of 1964 at St. Mary of Mount Carmel Church in Dunmore. In 1967, he was transferred to Gate of Heaven Parish, where he served as assistant pastor until September 1969. From then until 1978, Father Banick held the position of Professor of Theology, Director of Spiritual Life, and Director of Music at St. Pius X Seminary in Dalton. During this time, he also served as Lecturer in Religious Studies and Theology at the University of Scranton, Lecturer in Liturgical Music at Marywood College, Chairperson of the Music Commission of the Diocese of Scranton, and Director of Music at St. Peter's Cathedral. Father Banick engaged in further studies at Fordham University and Woodstock College in New York, the University of San Francisco, and the University of St. Thomas Aquinas in Rome, where he was awarded a Doctorate in Sacred Theology in 1973.

In 1976, he took up residence at Marywood College and was appointed the first Director of the Office for Continuing Education of Priests by Bishop J. Carroll McCormick, the sixth Bishop of Scranton. In September 1976, at the request of the Board of Bishops of the North American College, Bishop McCormick released Father Banick for service to the College as Director of the Advising Program and Director of Music. A year later, he was named Vice Rector of the College, a position he held until 1985. While in Rome, he was also Assistant Professor of Theology at the Pontifical Gregorian University of St. Thomas Aquinas. Before leaving Rome to return to the Diocese, he was named a Prelate of Honor by Pope John Paul II, on May 28, 1985.

After returning to Pennsylvania, Monsignor Banick was appointed to his first pastorate at St. Mary's by Bishop James C. Timlin on September 4, 1985. Since then, Monsignor Banick served faithfully as Pastor of St. Mary's Church of the Immaculate Conception in Wilkes-Barre for 28 years. Soon after becoming pastor, he established a Pastoral Team to assist him in the pastoral leadership of the large downtown church and in the ongoing ecclesial renewal inaugurated by the Second Vatican Council. St. Mary's Parish Center, constructed in 1995 to mark the 150th anniversary of St. Mary's founding, provided much needed space for parish ministries and activities, including a Religious Education (CCD) Center, a Music Center and a Reception Hall.

During his pastorate, Monsignor Banick served on the Presbyterian Council of the Diocese of Scranton. He also held membership in ecumenical, inter-faith, and community groups, including the Catholic Youth Center of Wyoming Valley, the Wyoming Valley Council of Churches, the Inter-faith Council of Wyoming

Valley, the Children's Service Center of Wyoming Valley, and the Inter-faith Resource Center for Peace and Justice. Monsignor Banick was Chairperson of the Mayor's Task Force on Alcohol and Drugs in Wilkes-Barre, and was Vice-President of VISION (Volunteers in Service in Our Neighborhoods) which operated the shelter for homeless in the Wilkes-Barre area. He also served on the Administrative Board of the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference, the National Association of Pastoral Musicians, and the Catholic Theological Society of America, and the Board of Directors of the United Way of Wyoming Valley. He also presided over the Board of Directors of the King's College/St. Mary's Early Childhood Learning Center, located at St. Mary's, which he founded in 1995 with Father James Lackenmeier, CSC, President of King's College.

Recently, Monsignor Banick also became pastor of St. Joseph's Slovak Church and St. Therese Church when the reorganization plan of the Diocese of Scranton consolidated them into St. Mary's Church to form Our Lady of Fatima Parish on June 27, 2011.

Today, I am proud to honor Monsignor Banick for a lifetime of devotion to improving his community, serving the Church he loves through priesthood, and positively touching the lives of countless citizens of Northeast Pennsylvania.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT E. "BOB"  
MAGEE

**HON. KEN CALVERT**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 28, 2014*

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community are exceptional. Lake Elsinore has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their communities a better place to live and work. Robert E. "Bob" Magee is one of these individuals. On January 25, 2014, Bob will be honored as the 2013 "John Packman Award" recipient at the Lake Elsinore Chamber of Commerce Installation and Awards Gala.

Each year, the Lake Elsinore Chamber of Commerce awards one individual the John Packman Award. This individual is selected based on the criteria that they have given the highest level of service to his or her community in the past year. After evaluating all that Bob has done for our community, it became clear how worthy he is of this honor.

Bob was born and raised in the thriving city of Sacramento, California, to Ed and Lynn Magee as one of four children. Bob went on to graduate high school after his family moved to the sunny Southern California city of San Diego and later attended San Diego State University (SDSU), where he earned his degree in Public Administration with an Emphasis in City Planning. Bob's thriving career began when he interned for Assemblyman Larry Stirling's 77th District Office and later with the Planning Department of the City of Santee during his years at SDSU. Following these experiences, Bob's passion for public service ignited. His first job out of college led him to follow this passion to Lake Elsinore, where he

began to work with the city's Planning Department on a wide array of things, including reviewing development applications and supervising the city's Code Enforcement Program.

In 1995, Bob became the Director of Governmental Affairs for Recyc, Inc, where his experience eventually led him to become the Vice President of its parent Company, Gro West. His extensive work and specialization in Mining and Land Development, Heavy Equipment Rentals, and Wholesale Nurseries created an environment for tremendous growth within the region. In 2001, Bob expanded his experience in the field by accepting a position as Executive Officer for Forest Wood Fiber Products. His management style demonstrated through his roles in the business community led him to win a seat on the Lake Elsinore City Council in 2003. He would go on to win a second term in 2008, where he was selected by his colleagues to serve as the Lake Elsinore City Mayor, a position he has held four times.

It is hard to imagine that Bob would have any free time on his hands, yet has he always found time for his community. Bob was a Little League Baseball coach for virtually a decade during the 1990s, and prioritized public safety by organizing and instituting Neighborhood Watch groups throughout the area. He served as Vice Chairman of the County's Historical Commission, Chairman of the Lakeland Village Advisory Committee, Chairman of the Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC), and as Chairman of the RCTC's Budget Subcommittee. He is also a dedicated member of the Riverside County Solid Waste Advisory Task Force, the Lake Elsinore Redevelopment Committee, the State Route 91 Advisory Committee, the Wells Fargo Inland Empire Community Board, and the Riverside County Republican Central Committee.

For all that he has done, it is no surprise that Bob has been the recipient of numerous community awards including being named "Citizen of the Year" by the Lake Elsinore Chamber of Commerce in 2005, "Distinguished Citizen of the Year" by the Tahquitz District of the Boy Scouts of America in 2010, and being appointed to the State Board of Fire Services by then Governor of California, Arnold Schwarzenegger.

In his spare time, Bob enjoys off-road racing, riding motorcycles, golf, tennis and walking his dog. He and his wife, Gina, live in Lake Elsinore where they enjoy cheering on their son, Richard, who is serving in the United States Army.

Considering all that Bob has done for Lake Elsinore, the Lake Elsinore Chamber of Commerce named him their 2013 John Packman Award recipient. Bob's tireless passion for service has contributed immensely to the betterment of our community. He has been the heart and soul of many organizations and events and I am proud to call him a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that many community members are grateful for his service and salute him as he receives this prestigious award.

CONGRESSIONAL RECOGNITION  
FOR DEBBIE RICH RECIPIENT OF  
THE 2014 PHYLLIS EHLINGER  
WOMEN OF EXCELLENCE AWARD

### HON. RON BARBER

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 28, 2014*

Mr. BARBER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Debbie Rich, chief executive officer of the Girl Scouts of Southern Arizona, who has been named winner of the 2014 Phyllis Ehlinger Women of Excellence Award by the Tucson Chapter of the American Advertising Federation.

This prestigious award recognizes a local woman who is a business owner or executive and who has demonstrated success within her industry, along with a dedication to philanthropy and mentoring.

Debbie is a former Girl Scout herself who today leads an organization that serves more than 15,000 girls and has more than 2,500 adult volunteers in Pima, Cochise, Greenlee, Yuma and Santa Cruz counties as well as southern parts of Graham, Maricopa and Pinal counties.

To meet the demand for services in Southern Arizona's underserved communities, Debbie created an innovative program using women students at the University of Arizona and Pima Community College as troop leaders. This has become a program beneficial both for the young scouts and also for the students who serve as their mentors and role models. To date, it is the only Girl Scout organization in the Nation to use this model.

Also under Debbie's leadership, Girl Scouts in Southern Arizona are addressing serious contemporary issues such as poverty, illiteracy, hunger, homelessness and violence.

Debbie's programs have become so successful and popular that the Girl Scouts of Southern Arizona now requires more space to fulfill its mission. There soon will be an enlarged campus with meeting rooms, science labs, a demonstration kitchen, a digital media lab and a gym.

Debbie has said that her goal is to motivate every girl in our community to be the best that she can be. Debbie herself has set a sterling example for the Girl Scouts who will come after her.

I am proud to recognize Debbie Rich on the occasion of her selection as recipient of the 2014 Phyllis Ehlinger Women of Excellence Award.

HONORING THE NORTH  
THOMPSONVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT

### HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 28, 2014*

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the North Thompsonville Fire Department. The NTFD is led by Chief Earl Provencher and Deputy Chiefs Douglas Maxellon and David Lapponese who are all prepared to lead a group of firefighters, or the entire department if necessary, into any situation. Chairman

Ralph Jensen heads the board of five fire commissioners. Since its first meeting in the Manning Barn on February 16, 1914, the fire department has grown steadily. Today, the station serves as a second home to the 46 men and women who proudly serve the 10,000 people of their district.

Through the years, the North Thompsonville Fire Department has expanded to better meet the needs of the community. By 1929, they had moved out of the Thompsonville Water Company Pumping Station and into their first fire station. In 1969, with more than 50 active members, the department hired the first part-time employees and named its first Fire Fighter of the Year, Ernest W. Deford. A generous donation from the John Maciolek Post of the American Legion in 1973 revolutionized the way the department responded to motor vehicle accidents. Believed to have the second set of Jaws of Life in the State of Connecticut, the department's use of this life-saving tool made critical rescues safer and more effective.

In 2009, the department proudly honored Deputy Chief Ken "Pops" Provencher for his 50 years of service. In 2012, they also gave this distinguished honor to Captain Patrick Griffin just before he passed away. The following year, department again had the privilege of honoring Captain Ralph Jensen, Sr. These men started as cadets and worked through the ranks from firefighter all the way up their respective ranks at retirement. All three continued their careers by becoming Fire Commissioners. The district, the members, and the citizens of the North Thompsonville Fire District thanked these men for their combined 150 years of service.

In 2012, the North Thompsonville Fire Department responded to 502 calls including structure, vehicle, brush and incidental fires, hazardous material incidents, mutual aid assignments, and medical emergencies. The department spent over 2,900 hours responding to emergencies and an additional 4,100 hours in training.

I ask that my colleagues join with me in congratulating the North Thompsonville Fire Department on the 100th anniversary and commend them for the work they do each day to keep their community safe.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 28, 2014*

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, due to a flight cancellation and airline delays, I was unable to be present for votes on Monday, January 27. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote No. 24, regarding H.R. 2166, and "yes" on rollcall vote No. 25, regarding H.R. 3008.

REMEMBERING COLONEL (U.S. ARMY RETIRED) WILLIAM EDWARD CALLENDER, SR.

### HON. BRADLEY BYRNE

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 28, 2014*

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to remember the life of Colonel